

# International Health

March 2016



# Definition

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International Health / Global Health is a field of healthcare, usually with a public health emphasis, dealing with health of populations across geographical regions and international boundaries.

# World Health Organisation

- WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system.
- It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

# WHO Agenda for Health

- Promoting development
- Fostering health security
- Strengthening health systems
- Harnessing research, information and evidence
- Enhancing partnerships
- Improving performance in health provision

# Life expectancy (at birth) 2013

- UK
  - Monaco
  - Israel
  - Afghanistan
  - Zimbabwe
  - Nigeria
  - Sierra Leone
- M – 78 F – 82
  - M – 83 F – 90
  - M – 80 F – 84
  - M – 59 F – 61
  - M – 53 F – 55
  - M – 51 F – 52
  - M – 47 F – 48

# Public Health Priorities

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- CHD
- Maternity Care
- HIV

# Public Health Threats

- Foodborne diseases
  - ▯ CJD (new variant)
  - ▯ 1995 – first man died in UK aged 19yrs
  - ▯ 1996-2002 – 129 cases in UK
  - ▯ Falling numbers since...food safety!

# Public Health Threat

- Accidental & Deliberate Outbreaks
  - ▢ Toxic chemical spillages
    - West Africa 2006 – poisoned water
  - ▢ Radio-nuclear accidents
    - Chernobyl 1986; Japan 2011
  - ▢ Deliberate events:
    - USA - anthrax



# Cont:

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- Environmental
  - Heatwave in Europe 2003; 35,000 deaths
  - Volcanic Gas release, Central Africa, 1986; 1700 deaths
  - Famine, North Korea, 1996: up to 3.5 million deaths
  - Droughts 2012 to present – Somalia; Ethiopia; West Africa

# Public Health Threats

- Epidemic prone diseases;
  - Cholera
  - Meningococcal Meningitis
  - SARS
  - Avian influenza
  - Tuberculosis

# Major Events

- Dengue Pandemic 1998 – 1.2million cases in 56 countries – still prevalent in Latin America and South East Asia
- AIDS – identified in USA in 1981
- Polio – re-emergence in 2003 in Nigeria, paralysed thousands of children and reignited disease in 19 countries
- Cholera 1994 – post Rwanda conflict – mass migration of people – 500,000-800,000 crossed border and 50,000 died in first month.

# Pandemic Flu

- Spanish Flu, 1918; 50-100 million deaths worldwide
- Asian Flu, 1957; 1-2million deaths worldwide
- Hong Kong flu pandemic, 1968; 35,000 deaths
- H1N1 Swine Flu, 2009; 50-89million people affected leading to >18,000 deaths worldwide

# Ebola Outbreak 2015 - present

First outbreak 1972 – Virus disease and identified in Sudan and Congo – next to Ebola River.

Current outbreak started in March 2014.  
Approx. 11,500 deaths in this one outbreak

Approx 28,500 survivors with ongoing needs.

# Transmission.....

- Guinea via land to Sierra Leone & Liberia
- Spread to Nigeria by air – 1 traveller
- Spread to USA by air – 1 traveller
- Spread to Senegal by land – 1 traveller
- Spread to Mali by land – 2 travellers
- Incubation period 2-21 days
- People remain infectious whilst the virus is still in their blood!

# Symptoms

- sudden onset fever, fatigue & muscle pain,
- headache
- sore throat
- vomiting & diarrhoea
- rash
- impaired kidney and liver function
- internal and external bleeding (e.g. oozing from the gums, blood in the stools)

- [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204235/1/WHO\\_EVD\\_OHE\\_PED\\_16.1\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204235/1/WHO_EVD_OHE_PED_16.1_eng.pdf?ua=1)



# Zika virus

- Virus transmitted by infected Aedes mosquitoes, normally found in Americas, Asia, Pacific, Africa
- Symptoms mild and last 2-7 days include:  
Fever, rash, muscle & joint pain, malaise, headache.

# ??links

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- Microencephaly
- Guillian-Barrie Syndrome